

Express Mail # ET 212870 934 US

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

1) My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, which is my full name.

2) I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Rigid Support Ring Molded into Elastomeric Connector Lip

the specification of which is attached hereto. I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

3) I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this patent application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 (a).

4) No application to patent this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States prior to the date of this patent application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint the following as my agent to prosecute this patent application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith:

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Date: 4/24/01

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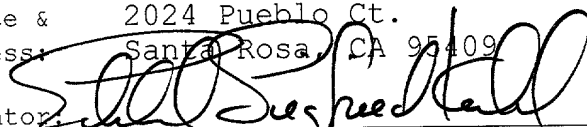
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